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Constitution Day is Sunday 17 September. The Constitution was composed by its 55 “framers” from 25 May 1787, to 17 September 1787. The Epoch Times is having a series in its Opinion section on the ideas that have formed the Constitution and its writers.

According to Robert Natelson, the writers of the Constitution were very educated men who read the classics gaining insight how ancient civilizations governed. These included the pre-Christian classics of ancient Greece and Rome which included such great thinkers as Greek philosopher Plato, Socrates, Aristotle, Greek historian Polybius, the elder and younger Cato, and Cicero.

They read the poetry of Virgil, Ovid, Horace, and the historian Livius. They read essays by Seneca, Pliny, historian Cornelius Tacitus and biographers Plutarch, Suetonius, and Machiavelli..They were influenced by the Bible, since the overwhelming majority of the founding generation were Christian, with a small minority of the remainder members being mostly Jewish.

The biblical influence, Natelson wrote, was greater than any short series of essays. James Madison, primary author of the Constitution and America’s fourth president said the following: “ We have staked the whole future of American civilization not on the power of the government, far from it. We had staked the future of all of our political institutions upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God.”

According to Natelson, the process was not limited to white males. Women did participate by campaigning and by casting ballots themselves. Annis Stockton, the wife and mother-in-law of signers of the Declaration of Independence, asserted that in America “ women have their equal right of everything.” In five states, free African Americans also voted on the Constitution

In September of 1787, the Confederation Congress asked the state legislatures to provide for the election of delegates to conventions to ratify or reject the Constitution. According to Natelson, people from all walks of life-from the wealthiest merchants in the cities , to craftsmen in the towns, farmers in the country, and even slaves in the kitchens discussed every aspect of the document.

To me , the Constitution is not a living document that can be changed to meet the whims of the government. It is a marvelous document written by wise founding fathers and it is to be followed for the welfare of all the citizens of this great country. As John Adams, America’s second president wrote,”Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people . It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other. “

May the United States of America return to the true meaning of the Constitution. God bless America